

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiners during the personal interview noted below. The amendments to claim 1 are not for overcoming the rejection but for clarity only. Claim 3 is amended similarly to claim 1. Claim 23 is added. Claim 23 is supported in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 22-27. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Qin and Donovan at the interview held August 1, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

As agreed to during the interview, the objection to and rejection of claim 22 are overcome by the July 7 Amendment.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended as suggested by the Examiners. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite: 1) an input area is formed on an annular peripheral portion of the input device; 2) a plurality of input sensors are located in the input area; 3) a conductive section transmits a signal from the input sensors and serves as a first transmission path; 4) the conductive section is connected to a bypass member that serves as at least one second transmission path different from the first transmission path; and 5) the bypass member is connected between different portions of the conductive section.

As discussed during the interview, neither Yoshino nor Duncan, as applied in the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), discloses or suggests the recited bypass member. Yoshino discloses a head sensor 14 and a rim-shot sensor 18, which have different, exclusive signal transmission paths to an A/D converter 20. Duncan discloses a

plurality of pads 1-5, which are connected to respective output via different transmission paths. See Fig. 5.

Moreover, there is no need to add a bypass member in Yoshino and Duncan. Adding a bypass member in Yoshino and Duncan would increase the cost of manufacturing and the number of parts and labor without any apparent benefits. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to add the bypass member in Yoshino and Duncan.

In addition, as discussed in the specification, uniform signal transmission time and precise timing of input are critical in the disclosed music game. Thus, the bypass member is disclosed to reduce signal transmission delays. Uniform signal transmission and precise timing are not critical in Yoshino and Duncan. Therefore, Yoshino and Duncan do not disclose or suggest any subject matter related to bypass members, and do not recognize any advantages for such bypass members. Accordingly one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by Yoshino and Duncan to add bypass members.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Yoshino and Duncan. Claims 8 and 15 are patentable for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New dependent claim 23 is allowable for at least its dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional recited features.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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